

Message Text

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SUBJ: JUDITH HART VISIT TO ZAMBIA

1. BRITAIN'S MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT, JUDITH HART, MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ZAMBIA AUGUST 6-12. DURING THE VISIT SHE SIGNED A NUMBER OF ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS WITH ZAMBIA, SOME OF WHICH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY NEGOTIATED AND OTHERS WHICH WERE NEW.

2. MRS. HART SIGNED THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO PROGRAM LOAN OF 20 MILLION POUNDS STERLING, STATING THAT THERE WAS A CHANCE FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE NEXT YEAR. HIGH COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAID ZAMBIA WAS ALREADY SUBMITTING A SHOPPING LIST OF GOODS TO BE PURCHASED WITH THE LOAN.

3. AS PART OF BRITAIN'S POLICY WITH RESPECT TO FORMER COLONIES, MRS. HART ALSO SIGNED A PENSION TAKEOVER AGREEMENT WHEREBY THE UK WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PAYING PENSIONS OF EX-COLONIAL OFFICERS. THE AGREEMENT IS RETROACTIVE AND ZAMBIA SHOULD RECEIVE ABOUT 3.7 MILLION KWAHCA AS A REFUND FOR PENSIONS ALREADY PAID.

4. THE UK ALSO AGREED TO SUPPLEMENT THE SALARIES OF AN
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ADDITIONAL 200 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL FOR THE PARASTATAL SECTOR. BRITAIN NOW TOPS UP THE SALARIES OF OVER 900 PEOPLE IN ZAMBIA. IN ADDITION, BRITAIN WILL ASSUME ALL TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR THESE PEOPLE. THESE COSTS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID BY ZAMBIA AND AMOUNTED TO OVER 300,000 POUNDS STERLING ANNUALLY. AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT, ZAMBIA WILL INCREASE THEIR RECRUITMENT STAFF

AND ADVERTISING IN LONDON.

5. THE GRZ REQUESTED PROJECT ASSISTANCE AS WELL, AND MRS. HART AGREED THAT BRITAIN WOULD INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITIES IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR. IN ORDER TO HAVE THE MOST IMPACT, BRITAIN IS INSISTING THAT THE PROJECT BE CONFINED TO A SMALL AREA AND IS SENDING OUT AN AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR TO REVIEW THE POSSIBILITIES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.

6. FINALLY, ZAMBIA ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR AND PRESENTED A SHOPPING LIST VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY \$42 MILLION. THIS INCLUDED SOME \$10 MILLION TO PAY PORT DEMURRAGE CHARGES AT DAR ES SALAAM. MRS. HART SAID THE UK COULD NOT CONSIDER AID TO PAY OFF PORT CHARGE ARREARS BUT WOULD LOOK AT THE REST OF THE SHOPPING LIST WITH OTHER DONORS TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE.
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